

REMARKS

This communication is in response to the Office Action mailed on March 25, 2005. In the Office Action, claims 1-10, 15 and 17-20 were pending.

The Office Action reports that claims 18 and 19 were rejected and states that claims 18 and 19 present new matter. Specifically, the Office Action states that applicants have not specified the degree of penetration of the resin material in the fabric substrate. It is submitted that FIGS. 2-4 clearly illustrates a lesser extent of height of each of the plurality of polygonal guard plates penetrating the top surface of the fabric substrate as recited in claim 1. It is believed that no new matter has been presented as to claim 18. Claim 19 has been canceled.

In paragraph 8, the Office Action report that claims 4, 5, 9, and 17 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected based claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, claim 4 has been rewritten as independent. Claims 2, 6, 8, 18, and 20 have been amended to depend on claim 4. Claims 5 and 7 are unchanged. Claims 9 and 17 were rewritten as independent. Claims 3 and 10 have been amended to depend on claim 17. [It is noted that claim 17 had previously included a typographical error that indicated dependence on claim 16. However, claim 16 had been previously canceled in a prior amendment with its features added to claim 15.] Thus, claim 17 as currently amended includes all the features of claim 15. Claims 1 and 15 have been canceled.

Claim 21 is new and depends on claim 17. Claim 21 includes at least some features of claim 8 and is believed to present no new matter.

In view of the above-described amendments it is believed that the application has been placed in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of

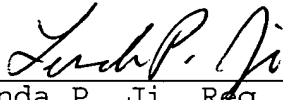
all pending claims.

A petition for a one month extension of time is hereby requested. A check in the amount of sixty dollars (\$60.00) is included herewith for the extension fee.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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